

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,
 - b) a polypeptide encoding an allelic or recombinant variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said variant
 - iii) has an insertion or deletion of 1-5 amino acids as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4; and/or
 - ii) has one or more amino acid substitutions as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4, and has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 at amino acids 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 15, 19, 31-32, 35, 38, 41, 48, 52, 54, 57-58, 60-61, 64, 71, 75-78, 80, 82-84 and 90,
 - iii) and further wherein the variant has chemokine activity,
 - c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said fragment has chemokine activity, and
 - d) an immunogenically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said immunogenically active fragment is capable of generating an antibody that specifically binds to the peptide of SEQ. ID NO: 4.
2. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of ~~claim 1~~ selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,
 - b) a polypeptide variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the variant shares at least 90% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 4 has chemokine activity,
 - c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said fragment has chemokine activity, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide consisting essentially of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the immunogenic fragment is capable of generating an antibody that specifically binds to the peptide of SEQ. ID NO: 4, and the immunogenic fragment possesses biological activity.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4 ~~claim 2~~.
5. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, **having wherein said polynucleotide consists of** the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.
6. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.
7. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.
8. (Original) A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

9. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
10. (Previously presented) A method of claim 9, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
11. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
12. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,
 - b) a **naturally occurring** polynucleotide sequence variant of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said variant encodes an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, **and wherein said variant**
 - i) ~~differs by an insertion or deletion of 1-5 amino acids as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4; and/or~~
 - ii) ~~has one or more amino acid substitutions as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4, and has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 at amino acids 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 15, 19, 31-32, 35, 38, 41, 48, 52, 54, 57-58, 60-61, 64, 71, 75-78, 80, 82-84 and 90,~~

~~iii) — and further wherein the variant has chemokine activity,~~

~~ii_c~~ a polynucleotide having a sequence fully complementary along its length to a polynucleotide of a),

~~ii_d~~ a polynucleotide having a sequence fully complementary along its length to a polynucleotide of b) and

~~ii_e~~ an RNA equivalent of a)-d)

13. (Currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of ~~claim 12~~ SEQ ID NO: 3.
14. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12, the method comprising:
 - a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally if present, the amount thereof.
15. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 14, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.
16. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
 - b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.
17. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
18. (Withdrawn) A composition of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
 - b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.
- 21.-22. (Canceled)
23. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
 - b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.
- 24.-59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously presented) An isolate polynucleotide of claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide is non-genomic.
61. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 12, wherein said polynucleotide encodes, without introns, the polypeptide.
62. (New) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 and possesses chemokine activity.
63. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO: 4.
64. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions.
65. (New) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that consists essentially of an insertion or deletion of about 1 to 5 amino acids compared with SEQ ID NO: 4.
66. (New) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide variant, wherein the polypeptide variant has of one or more conservative amino acid substitution and possesses chemokine activity.